



EXHIBIT 37  
DATE 2/13/07  
HB 9

February 13, 2007

Dear Kristin,

Thank you for adding this to the written testimony.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

I'm so sorry I didn't make it to the testimony as I was traveling all weekend and did not have access to my email and therefore did not get the change notice of our testifying time. That being said I'd like to add some written testimony for the record about our organization.

Big Sky Repertory opened it's inaugural season performing *Always.. Patsy Cline*, with stellar success. Over 2100 people attended our performance over the course of 3 weeks and over 700 of them were tourists or from outside a 100 mile radius of Butte. We just wrote a grant for Travel Montana that estimated those tourists spent nearly \$16,100.00 on Lodging, food and drink, retail sales and gasoline. This is very exciting for Butte. On opening night a couple from Houston, Texas came up to me at the opening night party and expressed that they had planned on leaving Butte that evening but saw our poster for the show and decided to stay one more night at the KOA to see it. She told me she would immediately run back to tell the campground managers and the Chamber to "Send everyone to see that show about Patsy Cline. It was fantastic". I found out later, by talking to both the Chamber and campground, she was true to her word.

Art Noonan was planning on testifying for us as was Darla Newman (Brad Newman's wife), the Founder of the Orphan Girl Children's Theatre in Butte. Darla has recently joined our Board of Directors. I, Andrée O'Shea, am the artistic Director and I'm from Butte originally. I got my degree at Webster Theatre Conservatory in St. Louis and I've worked all over the country with some of the greatest stage and film stars of our time. Some of the theatre's I've worked in include the Tony Award winning Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse, the Repertory theatre of St. Louis, Pioneer theatre Company and the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. I have also had recurring roles on *Touched by an Angel* and *Everwood*. Throughout my career I've always thought of Butte and what I could bring back to the city and people I love so much. This is my whole reason for starting the Big Sky Rep. We were just awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Urban Revitalization Agency who also believes in both our artistic and economic value for Butte.

My mission for writing the Arts and Cultural Trust Grant was to create a permanent Business Manager's position for our theatre. We have hired Jennifer Rozinka who will be wonderful in this position. She came to us from the Marketing Director's position at the Chamber of Commerce and graciously took a cut in pay because she believes in what we are trying to do for Butte. We do, however still need your help to keep her in that position. If you are able to increase your funding we are asking for your help with \$30,000 for the next two years to keep her with us.

We have a very exciting 2007 season planned with the comedy *Greater Tuna* and the musical *Side by Side by Sondheim* starring Broadway and television star Victoria Mallory. If you are in Butte or passing by we hope to see you in the audience.

Sincerely,

Andrée O'Shea

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